

Elk Valley Rancheria, California



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MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

BY EMAIL

Dear Task Force Members:

Re: Protection of Customary Rights

Elk Valley Rancheria, California ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Tribe in Del Norte County. The Tribe encourages the Blue Ribbon Task Force to consider the impact of Marine Protected Areas ("MPA") on the customary gathering and use rights of Northcoast Tribes.

Since time immemorial Tribes have responsibly managed their marine and coastal resources. In earlier comment to the Science Advisory Team, the Tribe advocated both that indigenous people of the Northcoast are an inherent part of the ecosystems that MPAs seek to protect and that indigenous approaches to the management of those areas are critical to their long-term viability. As such, protection of Tribe's customary rights is critical to the continued exercise of sustainable and responsible stewardship of coastal resources by Tribes for the benefit of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Miller
Chairman

